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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANCHORAGE ARTIST EXHIBITS WORK AT STATE MUSEUM

Anchorage artist Katherine Coons kicks off the 2009 solo artist exhibition series at the Alaska State Museum with a showing of recent tapestry works and small paintings based on her travels to India, China and Southeast Asia. The exhibition is on view beginning Friday, January 2. Later in the month, when the artist will be in Juneau, there will be a reception on January 23, 2009 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Coons has lived in Anchorage since 2001 where she is an adjunct professor at the University of Alaska and at Alaska Pacific University teaching art appreciation, painting and drawing. She has exhibited widely in Alaska and in Southern California, where she received an MFA from California State University at Long Beach. Solo exhibitions have included a 2006 show at the Art Institute of Portland, Oregon, and shows in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Homer. This is her first exhibition in Juneau.

Among Coons' numerous awards are a Career Opportunity Grant from the Alaska State Council on the Arts and residencies in Beijing, China; New Delhi, India and Taos, New Mexico.

About her work, Coons says: "As an abstract painter, I have been experimenting on unstructured surfaces that go outside the traditional stretcher-bar format. The pieces in this exhibit can be (seen) as tapestries or scrolls, paintings on fabric, objects or sculptural forms. I work intuitively, surrounding myself with materials and objects that interest me and I really never know what direction the art expression will take me. The journey involves immense physical work and each piece is demanding."

Katherine Coons' work will be on display at the State Museum through February 21.

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

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